



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Regulation of Clinical, Counselling and Educational Psychologists in Ireland

CORU Information Webinar, *04 October 2024*

CORU's Mission



“ To protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among registrants of the designated professions ”

(Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005)

CORU's Regulated Health and Social Care Professions



Phase 1 In Legislation

Clinical
Biochemists

Orthoptists

Phase 2 Establishment

Meeting 1 to Open Register

Counsellors &
Psychotherapists

Psychologists

Phase 3 Transition

*From Day Register
Opens to end of
Transition*

Social Care
Workers

Phase 3 Business as Usual

Social Workers

Dietitians

Radiographers

Dispensing Opticians

Radiation
Therapists

Speech & Language
Therapists

Physiotherapists

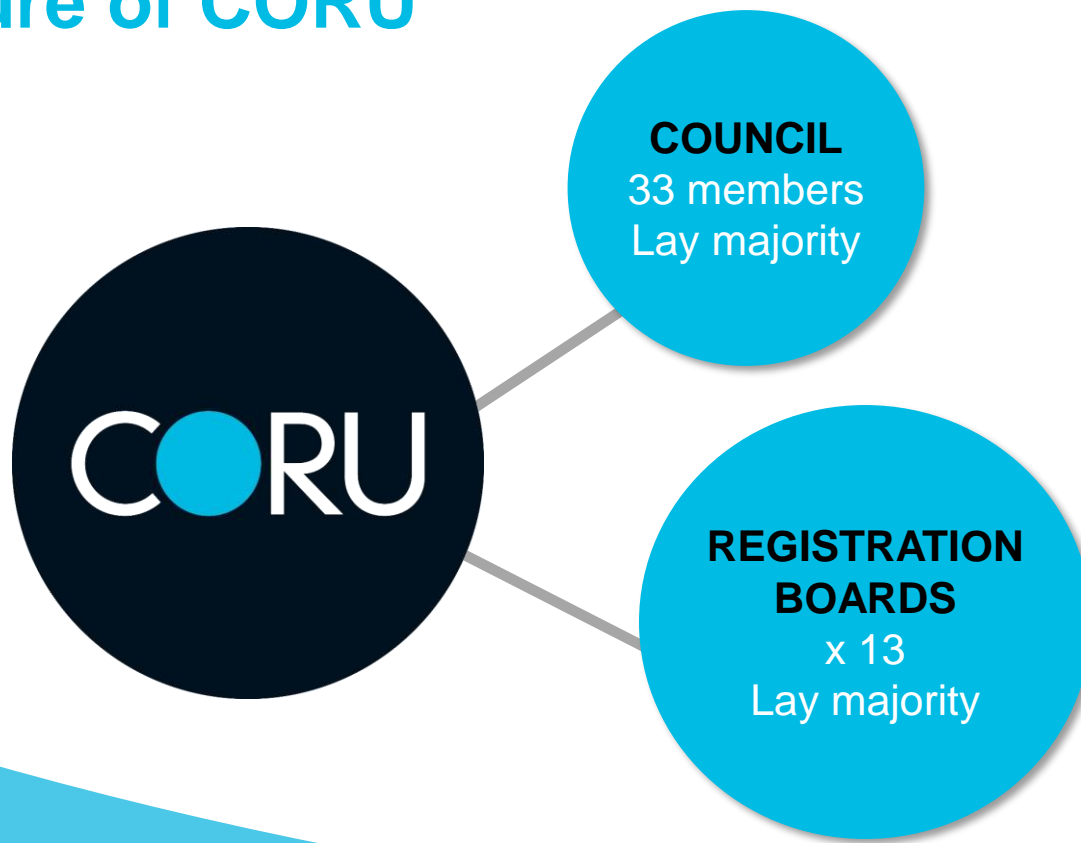
Optometrists

Occupational
Therapists

Medical Scientists

Podiatrists

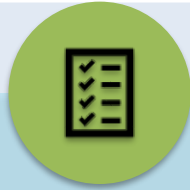
Structure of CORU



Role of Registration Boards



Setting professional standards



Establishing and maintaining a register of members for the profession



Approval and Monitoring of Education and Training Programmes



Recognition of professional qualifications awarded outside Ireland



Setting code of professional conduct and ethics

Public Protection

A wide, horizontal blue banner with a double-headed arrow pointing left and right, containing the text 'Public Protection' in white.

First Step towards Opening the Divisions of the Register



Set its Pre-Registration Education and Training Requirements

- Threshold level of knowledge, skills and professional behaviours for entry to the register
- Requirements that education programmes must meet in order to deliver on the standards of proficiency



Process for setting *Pre-Registration Education and Training Requirements*



1 Board drafts *Criteria and Standards of Proficiency* for each profession

2 Board considers and adopts *Criteria and Standards* for consultation

3 **Stakeholder consultation**

4 Board reviews consultation feedback and revises *Criteria and Standards* accordingly

5 Board adopts *Criteria and Standards* for professions

6 Dissemination to Education Providers

Pre-Registration Education and Training Requirements for entry to the Psychologists Register



Psychologists Registration Board



In July 2017, the Minister for Health established the Psychologists Registration Board to introduce statutory regulation and protect the title 'psychologist' in Ireland.

The Board has established a *two stream approach with each stream progressing simultaneously*.

Stream One

Establishment of Divisions of the Psychologists Register for:

- Clinical Psychologists
- Counselling Psychologists
- Educational Psychologists

Stream Two

Introduction of a Regulatory Model that will facilitate the regulation of all other psychology specialisms and the protection of the title 'psychologist'

Psychologists Register



One Register comprised of four divisions

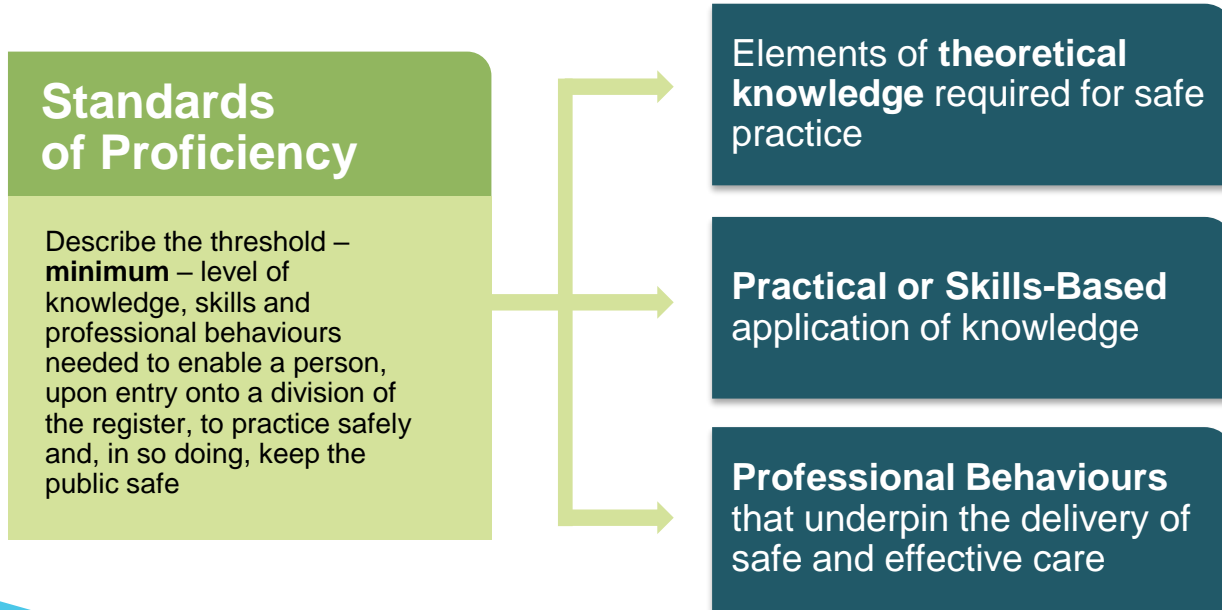
**Clinical
Psychologists
Division**

**Counselling
Psychologists
Division**

**Educational
Psychologists
Division**

**Psychologists
Division**

What are the Standards of Proficiency?



Standards of Proficiency are set as Threshold Standards

The Board must set **high standards** at the **threshold** level required to protect the public

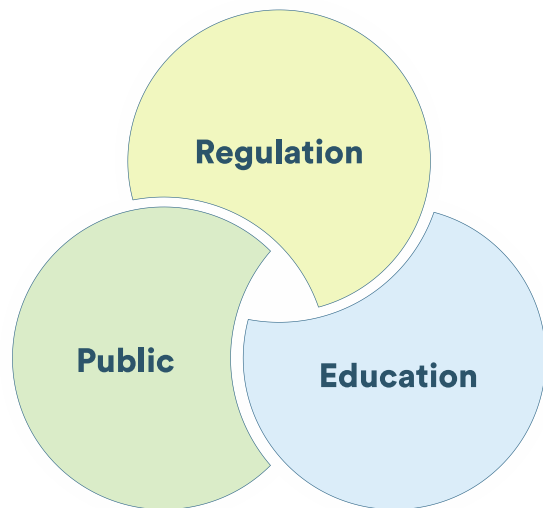
Threshold = the minimum knowledge, understanding and skills to practice safely

Not optional, desirable or aspirational standards

Start with a focus on public protection and set the threshold standards from that perspective



What are the *Standards* used for?



Regulation

All applicants – from Ireland and internationally – must demonstrate achievement of all the standards as part of the registration process

Education

Education providers that prepare students to practice a profession upon graduation – and which seek approval from the Board – use the standards to design their education and training programmes

Public

Articulate the practice of a profession at entry level and help the public understand what kind of service they can expect.

How are the *Standards* developed?



**Review of comparator
international
professional
standards**



**Consideration of
developments in
curriculum and
assessment design**



**Understanding and
experience of
contemporary practice of
the profession in Ireland**



How are the Standards written?



Outcomes

They provide clarity and direction on the knowledge or skill a graduate must be able to demonstrate

Succinct

They avoid extensive lists that detail the means around how the knowledge or skill is to be demonstrated

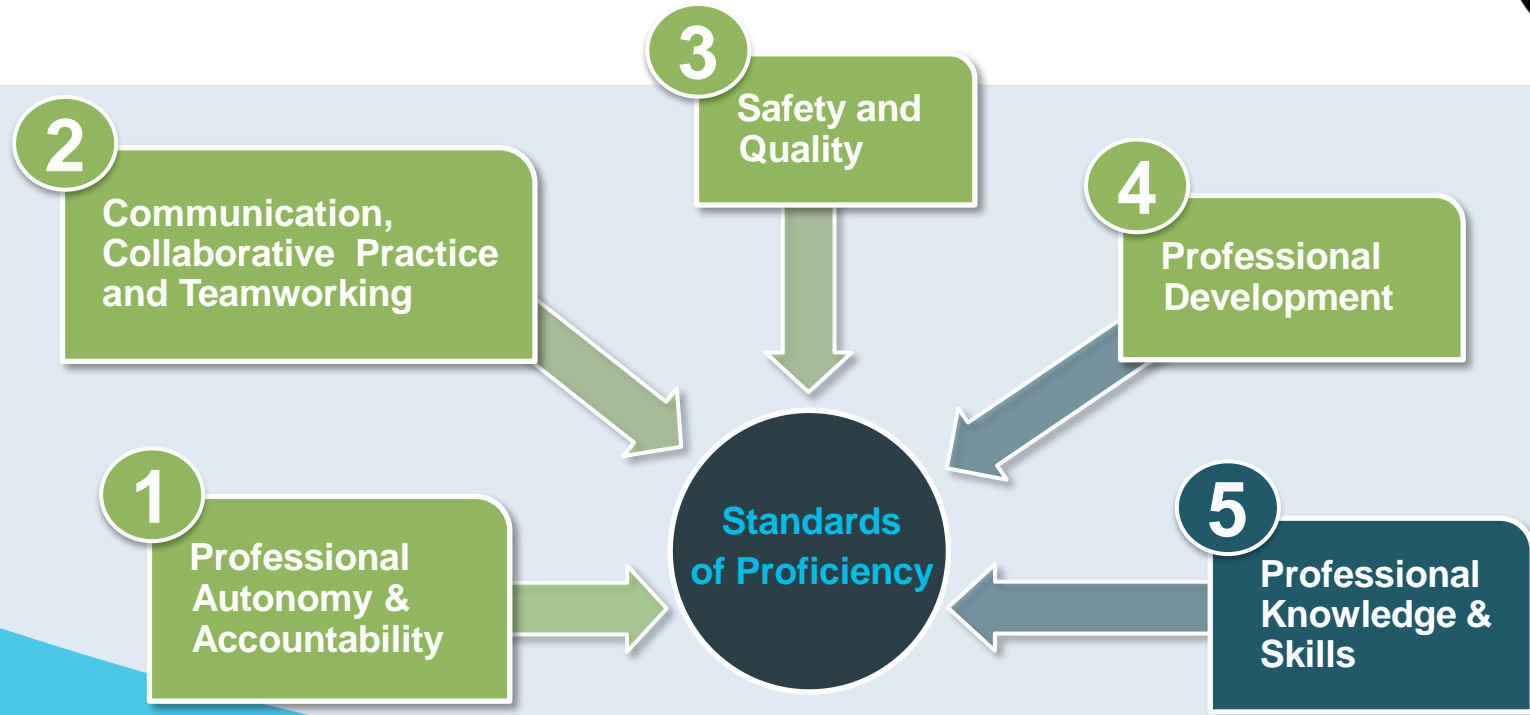
Flexible

They allow for application across a diverse range of therapeutic environments

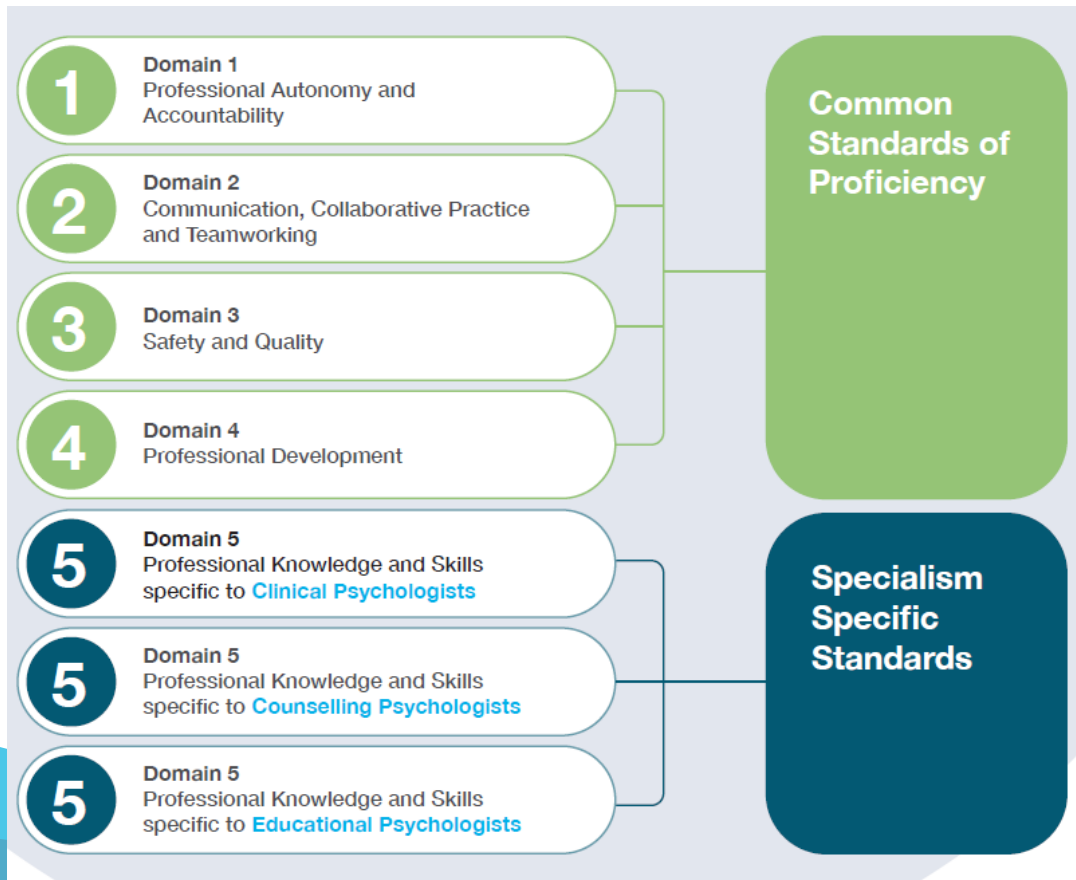
Holistic

They are not standalone or there is no hierarchy; each standard is as important as another. They are interconnected

5 Domains of the Standards of Proficiency



5 Domains of the Standards of Proficiency



Domain 5:

Professional Knowledge and Skills

Feedback Wanted
on Domain 5: Professional
Knowledge and Skills!!



Articulates the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours specific to each area of specialisation, reflecting the distinct contexts and environments of practice and the service groups practitioners engage with.

It is in Domain 5 that the **distinctive character and identity** of Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology and Educational Psychology emerges. This is where the *specialism-specific standards* are articulated.



What are the Criteria?



Criteria for Education and Training Programmes

Detail how a professional education and training programme should be designed and managed in order to consistently produce graduates who have achieved the **Standards of Proficiency**



What is the Criteria used for?



1

Approve and Monitor

Education and Training programmes by the Board

2

Qualifications Based Register

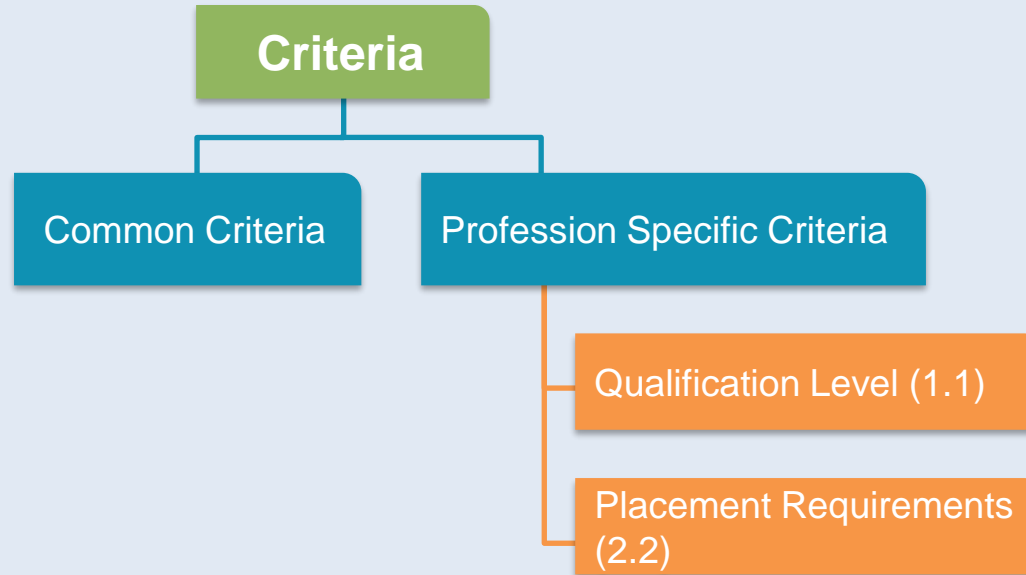
Applies to new and future graduates of approved programmes to join the register once the register is open

3

Not for Existing Practitioners

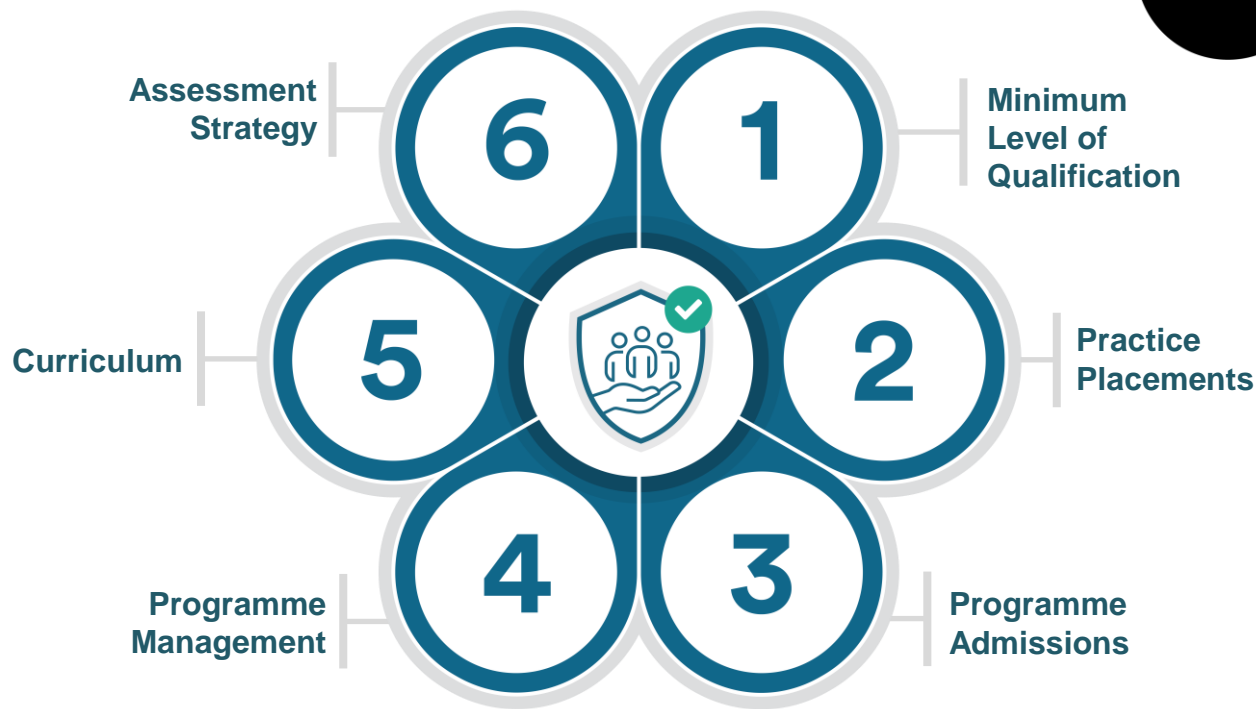
There is a different route for existing practitioners to join the register during the first two years the register is open

How is the Criteria made up?



How is the Criteria made up?

All 5 areas work together to ensure a programme can continually produce graduates who have met the standards of proficiency and, in so doing, ensure **protection of the public**



Profession Specific Criteria [1]:

Threshold Level of Qualification for Entry to the Register

What does Threshold Level mean?

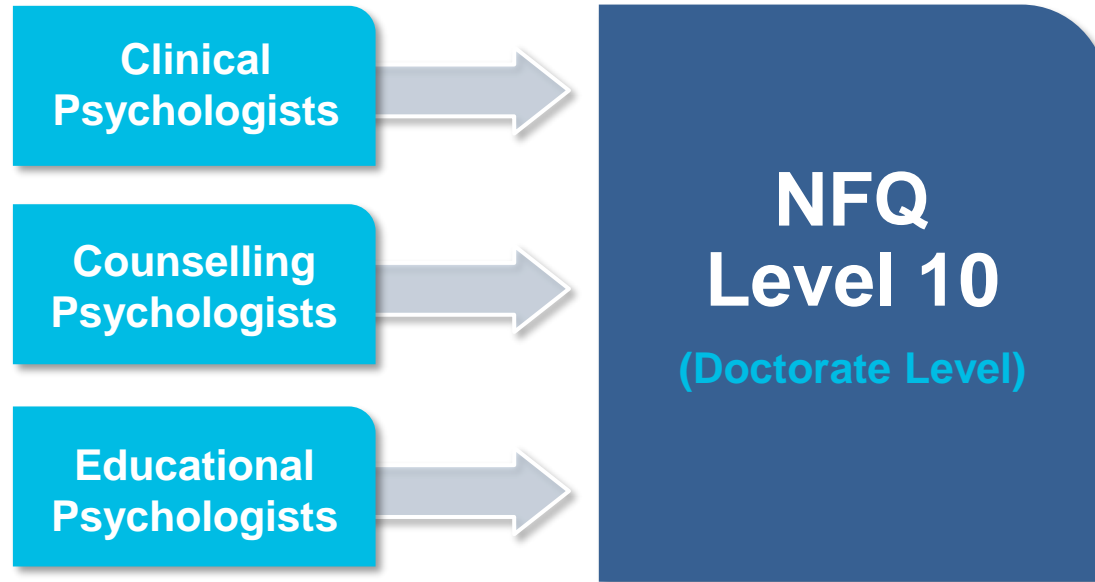
- Refers to the minimum level on the National Framework of Qualifications a programme must be designed to in order to **deliver on the standards of proficiency.**



The Board's Process



The Board's Proposal



Profession Specific Criteria [2]:

Total Number of Practice Place Hours



The Psychologists Registration Board has articulated two key components to its specialism-specific placement requirements for education and training in Clinical, Counselling and Educational Psychology

- The **minimum** number of days a student must complete in order to deliver on achievement of the *Standards of Proficiency*
- The **core service user groups** students must engage with during the course of their practice education

For Educational Psychology practice education, the Board has proposed an additional requirement around the environments in which students have exposure to during practice education

How does the Board establish the total number of placement hours?



The Board's Proposal



Clinical Psychologists

- **240 days** of practice placement education
- Undertake practice placements with the following service user groups:
 - Children and Adolescents
 - Adults and Older Adults
 - Child and Adult Disability

Counselling Psychologists

- **240 days** of practice placement education
- Undertake practice placements with the following service user groups:
 - Children and Adolescents
 - Adults and Older Adults

Educational Psychologists

- **240 days** of practice placement education
- Undertake practice placements with the following service user groups:
 - Children, Adolescents and Adults in educational services
 - Child and Adolescent Disability
 - Adult Disability
- Students must complete placements in **educational** and **health and social care settings**

Public protection



Key Regulatory Pillars



Standards of
proficiency



Code of professional
conduct and ethics

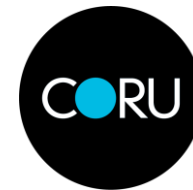


Continuing Professional
Development



PUBLIC PROTECTION

Public Consultation



Three public consultations on the *Standards of Proficiency and Criteria*:

Separate consultation for each of
the three specialisms



Consultation Questionnaire accessible online at:

www.coru.ie or email feedback to:
strategyandpolicy@coru.ie



Consultation opens on:

7 October 2024

and closes on:

29 November 2024

**Have
your say!**

Communication



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Thank You